

colleagues, and her expertise was critical to my active participation in the great health care reform debate of 2008.

As Legislative Director, Erin has done an outstanding job leading and mentoring the legislative staff, all of whom hold her in the highest regard and trust and respect her guidance.

Erin is one of the most loyal and dedicated legislative staff members on Capitol Hill. She has proven her talents and capabilities again and again over the years, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside her and blessed to call her a friend.

Erin should be proud of the service she has provided to our District and country. It has been an honor to serve with her and as I retire from office I wish her the very best in the future. Western North Carolina is a better place because of her efforts and I will cherish the memories of serving with Erin and the team by my side.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and thanking Erin "Doty" Georges for her hard work on behalf of all of Western North Carolina and to wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES C. BOLAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James C. Boland, who is being honored as the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's Mayo Person of the Year.

Founded in 2004, the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland is a forum for information and activities of interest to individuals of Irish descent, particularly those with ancestral ties to County Mayo. Its members are dedicated to promoting cultural, charitable, scientific and/or literary exchanges between the United States and Ireland, with particular emphasis on County Mayo, including but not limited to research into the life and times of Irish immigration to America and the study of Irish and Irish-American history.

A native Cleveland, James Boland has a long and storied history in the Northeast Ohio community. He is a graduate of John Carroll University and later earned degrees with George Washington University and the Harvard Business School. He served with the U.S. Army before joining Ernest & Young in 1964 for 34 years, when he retired in 1998 as a partner with the firm. Following his retirement, Boland was named the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Cavaliers/Gund Arena Company in 1998 and became the Vice Chairman in 2003; he retired in 2007. Boland has also served on the boards of Developers Diversified Realty Corporation, Invacare, the Sherwin-Williams Company and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

He is not only legendary in the business community, but has also been a philanthropic leader. He has played an integral role in the Leadership Cleveland program since it was established in 1977. He is involved with the United Way, Cleveland Tomorrow, The Ohio Business Roundtable, University Circle, The Cleveland Health and Education Museum, Hawken School, Bluecoats, the Great Lakes

Science Center and the Harvard Business School Club. He has chaired the YMCA Corporate Challenge, the March of Dimes "Walk-a-thon," the Olympic Torch Relay Committee and has played essential role in numerous other events that empower groups in Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Mr. James C. Boland on being named the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland's Mayo Person of the Year.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORTHERN OHIO LEBANESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, FADY CHAMOUN AND GEORGE CODY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Fady Chamoun and Mr. George Cody, Ph.D., who are being honored by the Northern Ohio Lebanese American Association.

The Northern Ohio Lebanese American Association (NOLAA) was founded in 1931 as a social and charitable organization. NOLAA's original purpose was to promote an understanding and unity among its members, act as a resource to better the conditions of its members and to foster unity among Lebanese Americans and their families in Cleveland and neighboring cities. In 2005, the Lebanese American Christian Society (LACS) was established in conjunction with NOLAA. Today NOLAA and LACS are dedicated to preserving, enriching, and promoting Lebanese heritage and traditions through cultural, educational, humanitarian and social activities.

NOLAA annually honors those who have made significant contributions to the community. This year's celebration will honor Mr. Fady Chamoun and Mr. George Cody. Mr. Chamoun is the founder and CEO of Aladdin's Eatery and Jasmine's Bakery, a restaurant chain and bakery that specializes in Lebanese cuisine. Mr. Cody serves as the Executive Director of the American Task Force for Lebanon, an organization dedicated to expanding awareness of the economic and political conditions in Lebanon and encouraging U.S. government entities and the Lebanese-American community to provide much needed assistance to Lebanon. Additionally, NOLAA will be paying tribute to their special guest, Mr. Boutros Harb, a member of the Lebanese Parliament.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the Northern Ohio Lebanese American Association, and Mr. Fady Chamoun and Mr. George Cody as they come together to celebrate at the Annual Lebanese Heritage Ball.

HONORING BISHOP GEORGE W. BROOKS

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a friend, supporter, mentor and trusted

advisor to me, both spiritually and politically, Bishop George Wilbert Brooks. After 37 years of service, Bishop Brooks will retire as Senior Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina on December 31, 2012.

A native of Hillsborough, North Carolina, Bishop Brooks moved to Greensboro to attend North Carolina A&T State University where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Shaw University in Raleigh and a Doctorate of Ministry degree from Friends International Christian University in Merced, California. After being licensed to preach the gospel in March 1975, Bishop Brooks moved back to Greensboro to begin his service as Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Since accepting the call to lead Mount Zion Baptist Church, Bishop Brooks has set an example for community and civic leadership and involvement that others can only aspire to match. In addition to his important religious role as the leader of a dynamic congregation, he is recognized as a leader in community based self-sufficiency initiatives. He also serves on numerous local, national and international boards and has been named among the "Most Influential Persons in the Triad" by The Triad Business Journal each year since 2005.

In addition to his church and community involvement he is a devoted husband of 44 years to Edna Brooks, father of two children and grandfather of five grandchildren.

Bishop Brooks' service to Mount Zion Baptist Church and the Greensboro community is unmatched. He has been a leader and a real inspiration to countless others in word and deed and in other ways that we can only imagine. As I often tell people, he is a "one-of-a-kind guy".

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure my colleagues will join me in wishing Bishop George W. Brooks the very best in retirement, although I'm not about to let him retire from the roles he plays in my life as friend, advisor and mentor. I thank him for all he has done for me and for our community.

HAMAS ATTACKS ON ISRAEL

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 16, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to this chamber's attention the on-going attacks taking place in Israel.

Over the past several days, Hamas militants in Gaza have launched a concerted offensive against Israel, our partner in peace in the region.

Nearly 350 rockets have landed in Israel from Gaza in the past three days. Three Israelis were killed in a rocket attack on Thursday.

Yesterday and today, warning sirens rang in Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, for the first time since the Gulf War.

As the right of any country to protect its people from attacks, such as Turkey has taken in recent weeks in response to Syria's civil war, Israel has initiated Operation Pillar of Defense to halt the rockets being launched from Gaza. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud